

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

JANUARY 2025



Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

Missouri is projected to have more than 357,500 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (96%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 60 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in Missouri in 2023 (\$57,580).

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	
62,477 Job Openings	186,034 Job Openings	94,377 Job Openings	Computer & Mathematical Occupations
\$91,971 Average Wage	\$55,002 Average Wage	\$44,410 Average Wage	Grade A and B Jobs Concentration
			97%

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	45,562	34,617	76%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	40,422	15,960	39%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	35,724	31,189	87%
Sales and Related Occupations	33,606	16,191	48%
Healthcare Support Occupations	24,043	23,116	96%
Production Occupations	22,115	5,989	27%
Management Occupations	21,120	20,324	96%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	17,638	14,906	85%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	15,388	11,539	75%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	14,636	13,461	92%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	14,267	8,918	63%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	13,290	12,539	94%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	12,745	8,616	68%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	12,096	8,230	68%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	7,596	7,369	97%

Missouri Top Grade Jobs

Now

Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 🔥	13,748	15.3%	\$30,270
B+	Stockers and Order Fillers 🔥	10,155	8.4%	\$37,820
B	Retail Salespersons	9,426	-0.8%	\$35,700
B	Waiters and Waitresses 🔥	8,512	-1.2%	\$36,810
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 🔥	7,033	3.8%	\$29,690
B	Customer Service Representatives	6,736	-2.4%	\$43,280
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	6,602	3.8%	\$33,830
B+	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 🔥	6,138	8.0%	\$38,520
B	Childcare Workers	3,025	0.0%	\$30,270
B+	Bartenders	3,008	6.5%	\$35,600

Next

Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Cooks, Restaurant	6,070	22.9%	\$34,000
B+	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	5,693	4.6%	\$53,440
B+	Nursing Assistants 🔥	4,660	6.8%	\$36,350
B+	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers 🔥	3,518	7.3%	\$39,460
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,254	7.3%	\$48,080
B	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks 🔥	2,519	-3.6%	\$46,990
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	2,301	2.0%	\$34,550
B	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers 🔥	2,139	-2.9%	\$65,150
B+	Carpenters	1,839	5.6%	\$62,810
B+	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products 🔥	1,818	2.3%	\$74,090

Later

Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A+	General and Operations Managers 🔥	8,426	5.9%	\$98,520
A	Registered Nurses	5,105	9.9%	\$77,590
A	Accountants and Auditors 🔥	2,514	5.9%	\$84,540
B	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	2,205	2.6%	\$55,530
A+	Software Developers 🔥	1,686	26.4%	\$107,980
A	Human Resources Specialists 🔥	1,681	8.7%	\$67,480
A+	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists 🔥	1,629	15.8%	\$73,200
A	Managers, All Other	1,618	5.5%	\$117,730
A	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	1,607	7.2%	\$83,050
A	Project Management Specialists 🔥	1,529	9.1%	\$94,410

🔥 Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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